

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 13 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 11 and 13 are herein amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 through 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese 11-223207 ("JP207") in view of Mizuno et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,443,678), in view of Bodin (U.S. Pat. No. 6,146,076), and in further view of Great Britain 700379 ("GB379"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is initially noted Claim 1 has been amended to recite in part:

"said internally threaded portion having a plurality of external surfaces defining a plurality of planer surfaces interconnected by curved surfaces, said internally threaded portion being internally received in a through aperture of said tubular portion, and
a thermal bond defining an integral connection between said tubular portion and said internally threaded portion."

Support for this amendment is found in Figure 4 and paragraph [0022] of the specification.

JP207 appears to teach a nut 11 inserted into a through aperture 10b of a rubber elastic body 10. JP207 does not appear to teach or suggest an internally threaded portion having a plurality of planar surfaces interconnected by curved surfaces or any

type of bond defining an integral connection between the rubber elastic body 10 and the nut 11.

Mizuno does not teach or suggest any equivalent to a separate part of a rigid material used for the internally threaded portion of Claim 1.

Bodin, like Mizuno does not teach or suggest any equivalent to a separate part of a rigid material used for the internally threaded portion of Claim 1.

GB379 teaches securing a nut element 4 in a sleeve 1 for example by bonding or vulcanizing “by seating the hexagonal or other exterior peripheral shape of the nut element in a correspondingly-shaped annular recess in the main surface of the wall of the sleeve, or by the provision of projections, beads, etc. on the nut element engaging the sleeve to prevent axial or rotational movement of the nut in the sleeve”. See page 2, lines 27-37. GB379 does not teach or suggest an internally threaded portion having a plurality of external surfaces defining a plurality of planer surfaces interconnected by curved surfaces. GB379 does not teach or suggest a thermal bond defining an integral connection between the elastomeric and rigid resin materials of the present invention.

None of the references of JP207, Mizuno et al., Bodin, or GB379 individually or in combination teach or suggest an internally threaded portion having a plurality of external surfaces defining a plurality of planer surfaces interconnected by curved surfaces, or a thermal bond defining an integral connection between a tubular portion and an internally threaded portion. The suggested modification of JP207, Mizuno et al., Bodin and GB379 therefore cannot render amended Claim 1 obvious. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 1. Because Claims 2-4 depend from amended Claim 1, the suggested modification of JP207,

Mizuno et al., and Bodin cannot render Claims 2, 3, or 4 obvious for at least the same reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claims 2-4.

It is initially noted Claim 11 has been amended to recite in part:

“a fusion bond operable to integrally join the internal threaded portion to the tubular portion.”

Support for this amendment is found in Figure 3 and paragraph [0022] of the specification.

None of the references of JP207, Mizuno et al., Bodin or GB379, individually or in combination teach or suggest a fusion bond operable to integrally join the internal threaded portion to the tubular portion. The suggested modification of JP207, Mizuno et al., Bodin and GB379 therefore cannot render amended Claim 11 obvious. Because Claim 12 depends from amended Claim 11, the suggested modification of JP207, Mizuno et al., Bodin and GB379 cannot render Claim 12 obvious for at least the same reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 12.

Claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese 11-223207 (hereinafter “JP207”) in view of Bodin (U.S. Pat. No. 6,146,076), and in further view of Great Britain 700379 (hereinafter “GB379”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Claim 11 has been amended herein to recite in part:

“a fusion bond operable to integrally join the internal threaded portion to the tubular portion.”

Support for this amendment is found in Figure 3 and paragraph [0022] of the specification. The spelling of “rigid” has also been corrected in Claims 11 and 13 and other editorial amendments have been made to Claim 11 to place this Claim in better condition for allowance.

None of the references of JP207, Bodin or GB397, individually or in combination teach or suggest a fusion bond operable to integrally join an internal threaded portion to a tubular portion. The suggested modification of JP207, Bodin and GB379 therefore cannot render amended Claim 11 obvious. Because Claim 13 depends from amended Claim 11, the suggested modification of JP207, Bodin and GB379 cannot render Claim 13 obvious for at least the same reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 13.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner noted Claims 5 through 10 are allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indication of allowed subject matter.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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